

**- Bill Would Create Strict Ban on Advertising by Companies Under Any Level of Foreign Control –**

**- The Freedom from Foreign-Based Manipulation in American Elections Act would Effectively Ban All Corporate Campaigning -**

*Washington, DC* – In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision last week to allow unlimited spending by corporations in federal election campaigns, U.S. Rep. John Hall (D-New York) announced legislation today that would ban campaign spending by corporations which are under even minimal foreign ownership or control. Hall introduced the legislation in response to the Supreme Court's decision to throw out a century's worth of precedent and law by allowing even foreign corporations to be involved in political campaigns. By broadening the definition of foreign control in regards to campaign finance law, Hall's legislation would effectively ban every publicly traded corporation from taking advantage of the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*

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The **Freedom From Foreign-Based Manipulation in American Elections Act** would block campaign advertising by any corporation with foreign nationals making up five percent or more of their shareholders, foreign nationals on its board of directors, or a foreign national employed as a senior executive. The legislation would impose increased civil penalties for corporations that do not abide by these regulations.

"Foreign companies do not equal American citizens when it comes to deciding U.S. elections," said Congressman Hall. "Foreign corporations have no business involving themselves in American elections. Foreign nationals who have partial ownership or management of American corporations do not have the right to use that control to swing American elections. I'm not going to let China determine the future of American civil rights or Middle East OPEC nations flood the airwaves with their oil wealth to defeat anyone with the guts to support American clean energy innovation. If we do not act, foreign wealth will be turned into a weapon against our democracy. This is a grave threat to our freedom, one that must be taken seriously and stopped

immediately."

Congressman Hall is strongly opposed to the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. FEC* and will

continue to support efforts to overturn it. The

**Freedom From Foreign-Based Manipulation in American Elections Act**

will prevent nearly all publicly traded companies from spending on campaigns. Given the international nature of the 21st Century stock market, the vast majority of publicly traded corporations have at least five percent foreign ownership.

"I vehemently disagree with conferring the rights of individuals on corporations," Hall said. "By giving corporations the same free-speech rights as individuals, the Court is handing corporations the power to decide elections instead of voters. Allowing corporate America, as well as foreign companies, to spend unlimited amounts of money in U.S. elections is in direct contradiction to the health of our democracy and the principles our country was founded on."

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